

**MINUTES-TOWN OF POUND, VA
APRIL 15, 2025 @ 6:30 P.M.
8422 North River Road, Pound, Virginia 24279**

REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

Mayor Cauthorne opened the regular session meeting with the pledge of allegiance and Pastor Josh Tompkins opened in prayer.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Cauthorne - here

Hall - here

Kennedy - here

Mullins - here

Powers - here

Mayor Cauthorne states he had discussed with the attorney, and they decided to propose adding a closed session for the acquisition of property per Va code 2.2-3711a3. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion; Mayor Cauthorne suggests it be added before other business. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion that the closed session be made number 24.5; Councilman Hall seconds

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - no

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

Mayor Cauthorne asks for any further discussion of the agenda. Councilwoman Kennedy states that she would like to remove public comment from the consent calendar, and discuss that before proceeding. Councilman Cauthorne asks if she wants to remove both public comments. Kennedy states that she would like to remove them to discuss them before moving forward with the consent calendar, and to add 22 a. CHS b. Weldon Cooper c. Limited Access and that all of these need to be resolutions. Mayor Cauthorne asks where the public comment would be going;

Councilmember Powers, whether or not he wants to let the people speak once or twice. Councilwoman Kennedy states it calls for question. Mayor Cauthorne asks for a roll call vote. Councilman Powers asks what the vote is on. Councilwoman Kennedy states it is on whether or not to end discussion and move on to the vote. Councilman Cauthorne thought this was for the motion. The Mayor calls for a revote on the call to question on whether or not to vote on the motion for removal of one of the public comments. Mr. Dotson states he thinks we are ready to vote on the motion, but there needs to be clarification on which one is being removed. Councilwoman Kennedy states she is ok with removing #5. Councilman Cauthorne states that is a problem because people may not want to stay for the whole meeting. Councilwoman Kennedy then amends the motion to keep #5 and remove #24. Councilman Cauthorne then states if they do something people don't like people will not be able to respond. Councilwoman Kennedy asks Councilman Cauthorne to decide, and he states they are both equally important. Councilwoman Kennedy states then she will stick with her original motion to remove #5. Councilman Powers asks Mr. Dotson what is customary in other communities. Mr. Dotson states that it is typically customary for one public comment, but that could vary if it is a special meeting. He states it's really up to the council as to how they want to structure their meetings. He states that the allotted time, manner, and place of public comment is really up to council discretion. Mayor Cauthorne calls for a roll call vote on Councilwoman Kennedy's motion to remove #5 audience comment from the agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - no

Hall - no

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - no

The motion does not pass.

Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to accept the consent calendar; Councilman Hall seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - yes

Kennedy - no

the town, and eventually had a stroke and died for the town. He states his mother has every right to be in Pound.

Cindy Mullins: Pound Va; States she is not speaking as a representative of the town, but as an individual citizen. She states she wants to remind everyone of Va code section 18.2-417. She states she has been slandered, liable and defamed and that those carry hefty punishments. Mrs. Mullins states she encourages anyone who wants to take criminal charges to do so. She states she has been thoroughly investigated by the Virginia State Police, and there was no crime committed.

Councilman Cauthorne asks **Kevin Dotson** if he will alert council if anything said that is out of line legally. **Mr. Dotson** states that the only time anyone's speech is if it gets to the point of disrupting the order of the meeting and the proceeding itself.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Wilcox states there is no police report this month, and that it is business as usual. **Councilman Cauthorne** mentions that something council has tasked the police department to do is to check in on shops that appear to be selling marijuana, and asks if that is still continuing. **Chief Wilcox** confirms. **Councilman Cauthorne** asks if a business having a sign that looks like a bong would give the Chief pause to check in on that business. **Chief Wilcox** states it does merit being looked into.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Councilman Cauthorne asks **Mrs. Carter** if the fire department has turned in their paperwork to become independent of the town. **Mrs. Carter** states no, not to her knowledge.

TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Carter states that in the packets she has put information showing that \$0 is owed to SLFRF. That all proper documentation has been updated and it has been taken care of. She also states that she expects **David Cox** to get with us sometime this week about the pre-audit. **Mrs. Carter** also shared information about an MEOC fundraiser. She also states the BAD buildings final presentation will be May 7th at 5:30pm at town hall. **Mrs. Carter** states that there was a community meeting April 1st with Appalachian Voices and Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia where they shared with the public the design for the labor monument. **Councilman Cauthorne** asks if the department of treasury notice has been taken care of. **Mrs. Carter** states yes. She states that there is also a report in the packets from the

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - yes

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

The motion passes.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Carter states they have continued to talk about the comprehensive plan. Councilwoman Kennedy states there are only a few things that are left to be added to that.

OLD BUSINESS

DEQ/APPALACHIAN VOICES/BAD BUILDINGS

Councilwoman Kennedy states that the final report from BAD buildings will be at town hall May 7th at 5:30 pm. She also states Appalachian Voices is still working with us, and we have requested an extension on the DEQ grant. Councilman Cauthorne asks about the landslide. Councilwoman Kennedy states that we are waiting on FEMA, and that we have reached out to legislators to help get that moving. Councilman Cauthorne asks Mrs. Carter how much is in the treasury right now. Mrs. Carter states there is a bank balance report in the packets, but right now the general fund is sitting at \$407,000.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AS PAID EMPLOYEES

Mr. Dotson states there is a revised copy with the amendment added at the last meeting, and given the public hearing was held at the last meeting he says we can go forward with approving this ordinance. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to approve it. Councilman Hall seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - yes

Kennedy - no

Mullins - no

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

AUDITS

Mrs. Carter states that she expects to hear from David Cox in the coming week. Councilman Cauthorne asks if that is paid for by a grant. Councilwoman Kennedy states no, that the grant was denied.

DEPT. OF TREASURY NOTICE

Mrs. Carter states that is resolved

TOWN WEBSITE

Mrs. Carter states the town website is currently up to date with current information. She states you will find in your packet a quote from Brent Jakowski, who kindly helped get everything up to date, to update the website. This would allow him to redo the website to allow the possibility to pay bills online, the possibility of embedding video on that website, and being able to post everything stream lined. She states that he quoted roughly \$5,000 to redo everything. Councilwoman Kennedy asks about the plan she sees on the quote. Mrs. Carter states that it is a maintenance plan.

POCKET PARK/SLIDE UPDATE

Councilwoman Kennedy states FEMA has to approve the design; as well as the issue with the last wall. Councilman Cauthorne asks for a time frame for this project. Councilwoman Kennedy states the unveiling of the monument will be in the spring of 2026. She states the monument is not contingent upon the slide being fixed.

CAMPSITE UPDATE

Councilwoman Kennedy states the permit has been obtained from the county. Debbi Hale states that the CDAC team is who is doing the design for the campsite. She also states she is working with the health department to see what type of toilet system could be simple and useful to use up there. Councilman Cauthorne asks what the town is currently responsible for as far as the campsite. Debbie states they are responsible for handling the grant money, and since it's town property maybe insurance. Councilwoman Kennedy states it is insured, and that the county is willing to patrol or go to the campsite if no one from the Pound police department is

New Business

BRIDGE FLAG

Councilman Cauthorne states that he was curious about the flag on the bridge as it is very tattered. He states he didn't know if the town was responsible for putting it up and if so there needed to be a new flag put up in its place. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to replace the flag; Councilman Hall seconds. Councilman Cauthorne makes a substitute motion to authorize Leabern Kennedy to take care of the flag; Councilman Hall seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - yes

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

HERITAGE DAYS

Mrs. Carter states that Heritage Days starts May 22nd with Pickin' in The Pound, Friday night will be kids night. With a DJ, bounce house, and games for kids. She states Saturday will be live music, food vendors, as well as other vendors selling various items.

STREET & SIDEWALK REPAIR

Councilman Hall states that he would like to see streets done, and he talked to the state man and they don't repair streets inside of town. He states they do the main road, but not the side streets. Councilwoman Kennedy states it those may be private drives. Councilman Cauthorne states we might want to check to see if the streets like the ones in the bottom are privately, town, or county owned. Councilmen Hall and Cauthorne ask about sidewalk repair. Mrs. Carter states she is pursuing a grant through VDOT.

BUDGET AND TAX RATES

Mr. Dotson states there will need to be a public hearing for next month; so it can be voted on by June and have it voted on by July. Councilman Cauthorne asks if this is the final proposed budget. Mrs. Carter states that they have been working to

CHS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

Councilwoman Mullins states she would like for the girls basketball team to come to the next meeting, and would like for council to be able to have a plaque or something for them in recognition of them winning state. Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to present them with a plaque at the next council meeting; Councilman Powers seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - yes

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

WELDON COOPER

Councilwoman Kennedy states the packets have a copy of a resolution for a free study by the Weldon Cooper center. Mayor Cauthorne reads the resolution aloud. Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to adopt the resolution; Councilman Cauthorne amends the motion so the resolution would read Pound EDA instead of IDA and that it also be sent to Congressman Griffith. As well as to take out the first "Whereas" Councilwoman Kennedy seconds the amendment.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - yes

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

LIMITED ACCESS

Resolution provided to council/public regarding changing limited access control on US Highway 23 in Pound. Councilwoman Kennedy states that this resolution was brought about by Mackie Mullins who lives in that area and has had increasing issues trying to access his property. Those citizens are asking that limited access be removed. Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to adopt this resolution.

Sherry Large: Highland Dr; She states she doesn't want to come to the front but has a question. She asks if when the pickle ball courts are put in are restroom facilities going to be available? Mrs. Carter states that it definitely can be looked in to, but the money was specific.

Stacy Carson: Glade Springs; She states she keeps hearing drama, but doesn't believe it is drama when a person is trying to get accountability for things done in the Town of Pound. She states her heart is here, and she was run out of the town. She asks Mrs. Carter about the SLFRF issues and was advised by the town attorney that public comment is really her time to say what she would like to say, and the question did not have to be answered. Mrs. Carson states she wants the public to know who is right and who is wrong. She also asks Councilman Cauthorne if they had talked prior to her coming to meetings; to which she said they had not spoken. She also apologizes to councilman Hall stating that Councilwoman Kennedy was combative with him over personal business. Mrs. Carson also states that while she was Mayor and Leabern Kennedy was first elected to council that Councilwoman Kennedy often wanted Mrs. Carson to take some marijuana. She states Councilwoman Kennedy bullied and peer pressured her to do so.

Jacob Cantrell: Out of town; He states that he doesn't understand why everyone is so obsessed with Leabern's business, and that Mrs. Carson was not run out of town.

Jimmie Vanover: Out of town; She states that she was threatened at the last council meeting she attended. She also states that she is very proud of her daughter Leabern Kennedy, and that she is tired of hearing her put down.

Conner Gent: Glade Spring; He states he wants to talk about the recording equipment that he used to run. He states that he used to use it for the Town facebook page in the past. He states that the old equipment used to work fine and it should still work for the towns needs.

Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to go in to closed session per Va Code 2.2-3711 a3; Councilwoman Mullins seconds.

states he appreciates Councilwoman Kennedy coming up with the funding for this although he doesn't feel comfortable voting on it tonight.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - abstain

Hall - abstain

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to adjourn; Councilwoman Mullins seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - yes

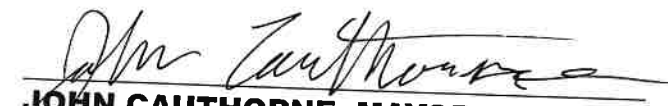
Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes


Powers - yes

Mayor Cauthorne adjourns the meeting.

APPROVED ON THIS THE 20 DAY OF May, 2024.


JOHN CAUTHORNE, MAYOR

ATTEST:


COURTNEY MEADE, CLERK